



The Resonator

Official Newsletter of The Fair Lawn (NJ) Amateur Radio Club

Volume 10, Number 8

www.FairLawnARC.org

August 2025

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President's Message

Hello all FLARC Members,

Our Hamfest was to be held on June 14, 2025. However, the G-d's were not with us and it rained most of the day. Our original rain date was June 21, 2025; however due to a conflict with another Hamfest we were asked by the ARRL to move our Hamfest to another date. By doing this we showed our true colors as being a great club for amateur radio.

Our NEW DATE is September 20, 2025. If you really want to mark your calendar, next year's Hamfest is June 6, 2026 with a rain date of June 13, 2026. These dates have already been approved and listed on the ARRL website.

As you know, June 22 was the Fair Lawn Street Fair. Unfortunately, it rained again most of the morning and we decided it was not worth setting up. I would like to thank Jim W2JC, Skip KD2BRV and Larry WA2ALY for showing up in the rain.

Since I am writing this in the middle of June, I hope that we had a great field day. I would like to say thanks to all the great FLARC members that helped.

I would like to also say thank you to all the great FLARC members who helped with the Fair Lawn fireworks.

Again, please note that all Kawfee Tawks™ will begin at 7 PM with the regular business meeting starting at 7:30 PM.

At the July 11, 2025 meeting (the Friday before was July 4th) Andrea Slack K2EZ gave us a Kawfee Tawk. Her topic was "What is a rover" and she described her rather awesome Rover vehicle as well as her roving techniques.

We will be holding a FOX hunt on August 16th. Karl W2KBF and Brian KD2KLN will be the FOX, so go find them. A prize will be given to the winner or winners who find the fox.

August Kawfee Tawk will be with Brian N2BTD on doing POTA (Parks on the air) from Ireland.

I have tried to cover some of the items that the club will be doing. So please think about becoming a more active member and being part of a terrific club! PLEASE reach out to me or anyone on the Board if you have an idea or a complaint.

73,

Gene WO2W
WO2W@ARRL.net

**Remember:
Ham Radio Is a Contact Sport!**

Bill Ledger WA2WL SK

On Thursday morning July 24, 2025 the FLARC family lost a great friend and Amateur Radio operator Bill Leger, WA2WL (SK). Bill was an avid POTA and radio operator.

I had the honor of doing many POTA activations with him, all over the tri state area. He helped the club both at our Hamfest and our Auction.

He was an electrical engineer by trade who first worked for ITT in Clifton and then spent 14 years with Panasonic in Secaucus, NJ. During his time with Panasonic he traveled quite a bit to Japan where he learned how to speak a lot of Japanese.

Bill leaves behind Janet his wife and a daughter Amanda.

I know that I will miss him very deeply and the club will also miss him. May he rest in eternal peace and I hope his family finds peace as they mourn his passing.

Gene Ottenheimer WO2W
President FLARC



Bill Ledger WA2WL (SK) doing POTA

FLARC calendar of upcoming events

August 1st Kawfee Tawk on doing POTA in Ireland

August 16th FOX Hunt – find the RF Fox

August 30th 31st Sep. 1st Rec. Center closed for holiday

September 20th FLARC Hamfest

[See the main club calendar at

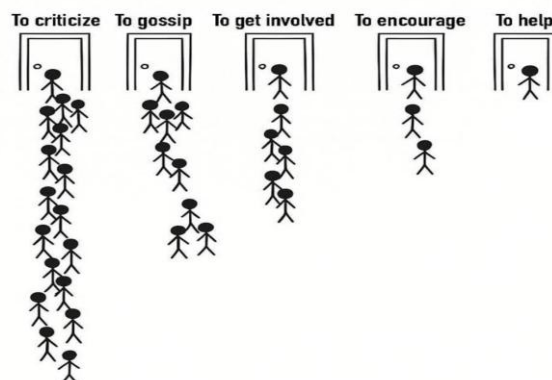
<https://fairlawnarc.groups.io/g/main/calendar>]



BE AN



The Lines of Life



Mystery Morse on 40 Meters – Follow-Up

by Fred KR2H

In last month's Resonator, I reported on several unidentified, non-amateur transmissions in the 40 Meter CW band. Here is an update, with some conclusions:

The frequencies used were in pairs and simulcasts, each frequency separated with its paired frequency by 7 kilohertz, and transmitted at consecutive times, so as one pair of frequencies completed their "broadcast," another pair would begin transmitting. The frequency pairs were:

7041.5 and 7048.5

7043.0 and 7050.0

7063.0 and 7070.0

7068.0 was also used, which would have resulted in a 7 kilohertz "twin" at 7075.0, but nothing was copyable on 7075.0 due to the presence of loud FT8 signals, which made reception impossible.

The pair 7043-7050 was not always used. When it was, the texts were long and different from the messages on the other frequencies. These "other" frequency pairs contained messages that were short but repeated many times during each transmission.

How did I determine the nature of each text or texts if the Morse could not be deciphered? An experienced CW operator learns to identify letters, numbers, etc., by sound. Even if the Morse alphabet is not known, the sound of characters can be discerned. By frequent listening, these patterns become clear, especially when repeated often. I observed years ago that even though I couldn't decode RTTY transmissions on HF without an external demodulator, certain repeated character coding became identifiable, such as a station sending the test signal, "RY RY RY RY RY RY..." and when "running foxes," which means when the station was running a tape of "The quick brown fox..." etc. After hearing these repetitive sounds, they become easily identifiable.

In all cases, the messages appeared to be sent by hand, but very sloppily, not in real time, but what sounded like hand sent Morse recorded on a "taped" system, paper or magnetic, or possibly a WAV file or other recording medium. All signals were very strong (no less than a solid S-9 signal, often above that) in the early evening starting

around 2130 UTC (5:30 PM EDT), peaking about two hours later, then gradually growing weaker later that night as propagation shifted to places farther away. All signals had a "watery" sound, typical of multipath propagation, which would be the case when signals arrive at the receiving location from two different paths, such as the E layer and via groundwave, or E layer but over one of the earth's poles – the signals distorted by geomagnetic effects.

But what does that suggest?

I've heard similar "watery" signals from stations in Eastern Europe and Asia on 40 meters, especially those traveling over the pole. But they are not nearly as strong, unless the transmitters making these strange transmissions were running power levels in the tens of kilowatts with directional antennas pointed towards the Eastern United States—which is a possibility, but a remote one. I have also heard multipath signals from the U.S. on 40 meters, but they were a lot weaker than the unidentified signals heard here.

So where does that lead us? I'm not sure, not having a rotatable, directional antenna for 40 meters. I use a home-built 40 Meter delta loop about 50 feet high at the apex, balanced feedline, and which is tunable on 80 through 10 meters via an ATU (Antenna Tuning Unit).

The Morse alphabet used appeared to be of Middle Eastern origin, most likely Farsi (Persian) or Hebrew, because a number of characters in these Morse alphabets could be easily identified, and because hostilities between Iran and Israel existed at the time these transmissions started. But other characters could not be clearly identified, no thanks to the "sloppy" sending, so the mystery as to which or whether these alphabets were used remains.

Another theory is that these transmissions are not conventional CW at all, but an unknown form of Frequency Shift Keying (FSK), with mark and space pulses separated by a shift of 7 kilohertz. I've never heard of FSK using such a wide shift. Some thirty years ago, my Navy-Marine Corps MARS circuit passed messages by AFSK with a shift of 170 Hertz. Otherwise, military and government FSK schemes use very narrow shifts of 25 Hertz or so, possibly less. So far, no one has come forward to identify which FSK coding scheme was used. Of course, it is possible that such a coding scheme exists; but if it does, and this is the true

Continued on next page.

Mystery Morse on 40 Meters – Follow-Up, continued

explanation, its details are evidently kept secret.

I can conclude one thing with a better than average likelihood of certainty, however. Clearly, most of these transmissions fall into the category of disinformation. Disinformation is an INTEL term meaning false messages, meant to confuse and deceive all but their intended recipients, and leading others on a wild goose chase in an effort to decode what is essentially nonsense, thus diverting them from the “real” messages.

The one exception to this was alluded to earlier in this article. The frequency pair 7043-7050 sent long messages with texts different from the other frequencies. They were also used on an irregular basis, not every evening, unlike the other frequency pairs, which transmitted short messages that were repeated several times, day after day, week after week. I suggest that the pair 7043-7050 may have contained the “real” messages, the others, only disinformation.

But why were these transmissions placed right in the middle of an active amateur radio band? One would think that would be the last place to send “secret messages.” But maybe not. Remember Sherlock Holmes’ dictum that the best place to hide something is in plain sight.

During World War II, the FBI set up a sting operation in New York, involving a nest of Nazi spies operating in Manhattan. It involved infiltrating their group with an American agent, giving him excellent but altered credentials, training him as a radio operator, and having him set-up and operate a shortwave transmitter on Long Island to send deliberately misleading messages to Berlin. The station was secretly licensed to the FBI and used an amateur frequency in the 20 meter CW band to send deceptive messages. It even had a call sign, W2NCK (which never appeared in any Call Book until that call was later issued to an ordinary amateur in the late 1950s).

If you look in old Call Books from the 1930s to 1950s, you will discover something curious. The observant reader will notice that there are some calls, and even whole blocks of calls, that simply were never issued; or at least that were never published as being issued to amateurs. I strongly suspect that these “ghost” calls were issued to government agencies or the military, as they were during that sting operation during World War II, as part of law enforcement or covert efforts. The amateurs who later received these “ghost” calls probably had no idea of their hidden history.

One such call would always puzzle me. In the first quarter

of 1962, WN2 and WB2 calls began to be issued. The first in that series would have either been WN2AAA (Novice) or WB2AAA (Tech or higher). But these calls never appeared in the Call Book. The first published call in that series was WB2AAB, which oddly was issued to someone in Chicago, long before hams were allowed to hold an out-of-call area call sign in a different call area. Very strange. There are other odd examples, if you dig for them.

The final chapter of the “Mystery signal of 40 meters” is this. All transmissions ceased on the evening of July 6th local time, (morning of July 7 UTC), having completed their mission, whatever it was. They have not been heard since.

But who knows? Maybe they’ll turn up on 40 meters again or on another band, so keep listening. You can never tell what mysteries are out there, waiting to be discovered.

73, Fred, KR2H

HF Radio Frequency Diversity

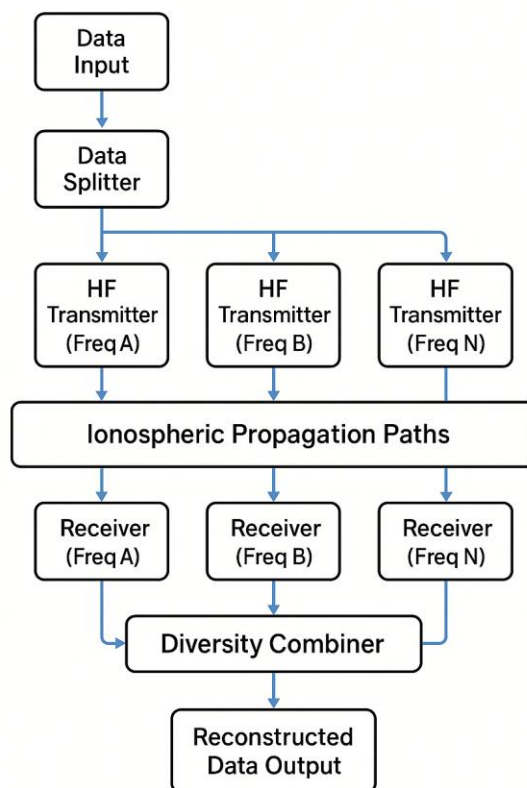


Diagram generated by ChatGPT.

Another Mystery Transmission

— Fred KR2H

Well, it's really not so mysterious.

The frequency is 14108 Khz. There have been numerous reports of non-amateur activity on this frequency, using both digital modes and CW.

I listened there recently, about 0400Z (11 PM EDT), and here's part of what I copied in CW mode, at an approximate speed of 16-18 WPM:

0433Z: "L8E4 L8E4 L8E4 DE P6ZW P6ZW K"

0434Z: "L8E4 L8E4 L8E4 DE P6ZW P6ZW K"

0436Z: "L8E4 L8E4 L8E4 DE P6ZW P6ZW R K"

Contact was established at this point, the other station operating on another, unknown frequency.

The Morse alphabet was definitely Cyrillic. The actual Cyrillic characters are:

Л8И4 Л8И4 Л8И4 (де) П6ЗВ П6ЗВ К

The character that looks like a "3" is the Cyrillic "Z," and the character that looks like a "B" is the Cyrillic "V." There is no "W" in Russian, for example, so the character "W" in international Morse is rendered as a "V" (Veh).

Here is some other chatter, per the above, all sent by the station "P6ZW."

0437Z: "G48A G48A G48A DE P6ZW P6ZW K"

After a short interval, "R K" was sent, indicating that a response was received, and acknowledged).

0438Z: "SLB3 SLB3 SLB3 DE P6ZW P6ZW K

0439Z: "R K"

(Indicating another response and acknowledgement).

0439Z: "S8D5 S8D5 S8D5 DE P6PW P6ZW K"

0440Z: "R K"

(Another response and acknowledgement).

On July 2, I started listening at about 0410Z. What followed was a fairly lengthy message consisting of 5-character Cyrillic cipher groups. At the end of this transmission the following was sent:

"SLB3 SLB3 SLB3 DE 2D3N 2D3N..."

"2D3N" is most likely the same Net Control Station as "P6ZW" but operating under a different tactical call sign. This was followed by another message, as above, 5-character Cyrillic cipher groups. It was getting late, so I did not copy the complete message.

The call signs are obviously not in accordance with standard ITU Prefix blocks. They are, of course, tactical (military) call signs which are likely changed frequently.

These transmissions constitute "callups" of various stations in a military net. Once each station acknowledges, a cipher message follows, either to all stations or to a specific station.

Deciphering these messages would be impossible without a "key," because they no doubt involve the use of a "one-time pad" system, with a number of cipher keys provided to the recipient for decoding. These are changed daily or even hourly. The preamble of the message typically identifies which cipher key is to be used for decoding, as well as a "group count," telling the operator how many cipher groups are included in the text.

There really isn't much of a mystery as to the origin of these transmissions on 14108 kilohertz. They have been widely reported to be Russian military.

Why are these transmissions in the 20 meter amateur band? We must remember that the world is divided into Radio Regions, and radio services other than amateur are legally authorized by International Agreement to use frequencies that also happen to be in our amateur bands and copyable here in ITU Region 2.

As such, these non-amateur services in Regions 1 and 3 are well within their rights to use frequencies that are used by amateurs in Region 2. Hearing them cannot be avoided due to normal HF propagation. I imagine that some of our high power amateur stations may well be an annoyance to these other services in other Regions, too.

For detailed info about ITU Regions, see this Wikipedia article:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ITU_Region

The world is really a pretty small place when it comes to radio.

If not, there'd be no such thing as "DXing," and that wouldn't be any fun at all!

73,

Fred, KR2H

Monitoring SIG Updates

A Special Interest Group SIG for those interested in SWL and other radio communications monitoring.



<https://fairlawnarc.groups.io/g/monitoring>

Tech Committee info for July:

- We received a generous donation from the family of a silent key. This includes a Yaesu FTdx-101D transceiver with matching desk mic. This is now installed at operator position 1.
- The Flex 6400 from position 1 was moved to position 2 in place of the Icom 746 Pro.
- We also received a Yaesu FT-950 in the donation which is installed at position 5 in place of the Kenwood TS-870.
- The Icom 746 Pro was sold at the Sussex hamfest and proceeds are added to the club's treasury account.
- The Kenwood TS-850 and TS-870 (with matching power supply are for sale).
- New rotor and controller are being ordered and to be installed on tower 2 for the placement of the new 6/10 meter beam.

73

Dave De Coons wo2x

2025 Dues

New members: only \$20 for your first year !

There are no changes to dues for the upcoming year. Renew now, and let us know what activities or features would make you more active with the club.

Please make checks payable to:
"Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club"
and send them to:

Fair Lawn ARC
– Attn: Treasurer
10-10 20th Street
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Please include a member application form with your \$25 check regardless of your member status. It can be found near the back of this newsletter.



The Resonator Is Now Archived!

Ever wanted to search for something in *The Resonator*? Maybe a member profile. Perhaps a past Street Fair. Even who participated at Field Day in 2017.

Now you can. *The Resonator* has now been accepted as part of the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications. DLARC is a project of the Internet Archive (the not-for-profit online library best known for *The Wayback Machine*.) DLARC is growing to be a massive online library of the past and present of ham radio and related communications. It is funded by a grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications.

When you need to find something, go to:
<https://archive.org/details/flarc-resonator>

You can use the search "text contents" field to do a full-text search on all issues or click "Date Published" to see them sorted by publication date.

Get Direct With FLARC!

Here is a direct link to specific club info: just a click away!

<http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://auction.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://calendar.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://events.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://exams.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://news.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://swap.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://tech.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

<https://groups.io/g/FairLawnARC>



An open, fresh air ham shack!
Chris KE2NJ and David K2DBK

The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio

Why is FLARC New Jersey's Most Exciting Radio Club?



Annual and Special Events



- Field Day
- Winter Field Day
- World Amateur Radio Day
- Portable Day
- Earth and Environmental Days
- Field Trips
- Club Exchanges
- Special Even
- Public Service Activities
- Public Events
- Ham fests and Auctions
- Foxhunts
- Contests
- Youth Activities and more

There Is Something Every Night At FLARC!

Monday: Near and Far Net

Tuesday: DMR Net and Open House at the clubhouse

Wednesday: ARES/RACES Net

Thursday: Tech Net

Friday: Open House at the clubhouse or *Kawfee Tawk* Speaker Series (Monthly via Zoom)

Weekends: Open House at the clubhouse, POTA and other station activations, Contests, Foxhunts



Special Interest Groups

- Portable Ops (POTA, SOTA, etc.)
- DX: Chase the rare ones
- Digital Voice: DMR and other modes
- FT8: Plus, other WSJT modes
- Satellite: Also, for weather interests
- Monitoring: SWL and other listening
- Contesting
- EMCOMM
- Radio Direction Finding
- Raspberry pi, Arduino



Plus:

- A five-position operating station clubhouse
- An active repeater—W2NPT linked with NJ2BS.
- New antennas on the roof
- Monthly VE testing
- An award-winning newsletter
- Monthly speaker programs
- Educational programs and activities
- Active in-person and social networking
- An extensive video education archive

That is Why FLARC Is the Most Exciting Club Around!

Come join us in-person or via Zoom for more activities, speakers, and projects!

www.fairlawnarc.org



The Club Fair Lawn ARC is the fastest growing ham club around, with five operating positions in a permanent clubhouse. Visitors and guests are always welcome. The club is open every Friday night, except when there is a Business Meeting scheduled, from NLT 6:30 PM. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30PM.

2025 Officers, Committees and Assignments

President	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
Vice President	Nomar Vizcarrondo	NP4H
Treasurer	Robert Marchini	KD2SOG
Secretary	Jim Cooper	W2JC
Trustee	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
Trustee	Lowell "Van" VantSlot	W2DLT
Trustee	Noel Pagan	W2MSA
Member Services	Judith Shaw	KC2LTM
Health & Welfare	Nomar Vizcarrondo	NP4H
Marketing	Jim Cooper	W2JC
Program	[open]	
Video/YouTube	Thom Guida	W2NZ
Social Media	Brian Duddy	N2BTD
	Thom Guida	W2NZ
	Dave Marotti	NK2Q
Photographer	Robert Marchini	KD2SOG
Community Relations	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
	Dave Gotlib	KD2MOB
Field Day2025	[open]	
Winter Field Day 2025	Noel Pagan	W2MSA
Hamfest	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
Auction	Brian Cirulnick	KD2KLN
Education	[open]	
Youth Outreach	Robert Marchini	KD2SOG
Adult Outreach	Lowell "Van" VantSlot	W2DLT
	Jim Cooper	W2JC
VE Testing Coordinator	Gene Ottenheimer	WO2W
Special Events	James Gallo	KB2FMH
Contests	Lowell Vant Slot	W2DLT
FLARC Historian	Fred Belghaus	KR2H [W2AAB]
Webmaster	Jim Cooper	W2JC
Asst. Webmaster	David Kozinn	K2DBK
Technical Chair	Dave deCoons	WO2X
EmComm	Jim Breheny	N2JLF
RACES/ARES Director	Dave Gotlib	KD2MOB
RACES/ARES Liaison	Steve Wraga	WA2BYX
Newsletter Editor and Publisher	Jim Cooper	W2JC
Club Station Manager	Noel Pagan	W2MSA
Quartermaster	Fred Wawra	W2ABE

Want a Call Sign License Plate?

Amateur Radio (Ham operators) license plates may be purchased for a \$15 fee, for passenger vehicles, but not for commercial vehicles or motorcycles. (Applicants must be licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.)

Call MVC at 609.292.6500 or (toll free in NJ) 888.486.3339 to request an application.

The club has applications from time to time. If you would like an application, visit the "contact us" page, and we'll get one out to you.. Or find the form and detailed instructions at:

<https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/pdf/vehicles/SP-23.pdf>



Letters:

A feature of *The Resonator*

The editor has received a lot of nice notes, letters and comments about this newsletter and the club in general. We have not published them in the past but going forward we will at least try.

Here are the grounds rules:

- Please keep all comments as brief and succinct as possible.
- No personal attacks.
- No political rants.
- No comments promoting violence, racism, religious intolerance, vulgarity, obscenity, or other such discourteous behavior.
- The Editor reserves the right to exclude any comments that violate our guidelines and may subject the writer to further disciplinary action by the club.

A QSL card is the final courtesy of an amateur radio contact.

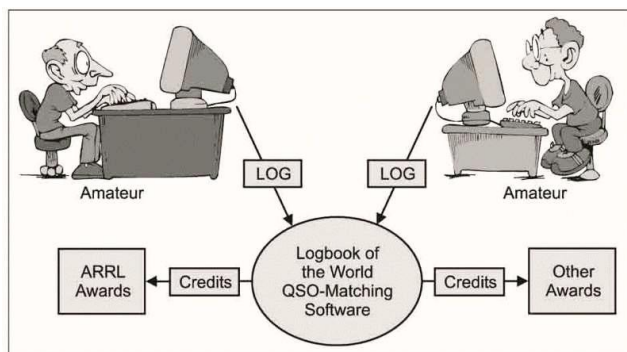
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QSL_card

INCOMING QSL Bureau -- if you have been making on-the-air contacts, you might very well have a package of exciting QSL cards from around the world waiting for you at the incoming QSL Bureau. If you previously received cards from them, check to see if you have any “credits” left by going to https://www.njdx.org/?page_id=869. If you never contacted them, they probably have cards for you! Go to this page -- https://www.njdx.org/?page_id=25 and get some ‘credits’ to cover the postage for mailing your cards to you.

To learn about the W2 Bureau, https://www.njdx.org/?page_id=30

SIG Group Membership

Here is an update on the roster of Special Interest Groups... many groups have increased in size during the last month. About 45% of all members have joined at least one group.



Those who upload logs to Logbook of the World become eligible to redeem confirmation credits for awards. LoTW wants and needs *all* logs. Uploading is free, so send your logs today!

Follow FLARC ON THE WEB

Facebook: <http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>

Twitter: @FairLawnARC

Youtube: <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

Website: <http://FairLawnARC.org>

<u>SIG Name</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>#</u>
Contesting	W2DLT	14
Digital Voice	N2AAM	30
EmComm	N2JLF	13
Monitoring	WX2R	25
DX	W2JC	18
FT8	W2JC	22
Satellites	N2AAM	20
Portable Ops	W2MSA	48
Radio Astronomy	WX2R	4
Raspberry pi		7
Direction Finding	W2KBF	6
FLARC General		176

Sign up for a group... or ...
why not start one?

Contact webmaster@FairLawnARC.org
if you would like to start a new
Special Interest Group.

The Clubhouse Is Open FOUR Fridays In August!!

Date	Clubhouse Status
August 1	CLOSED – Business Meeting at Fair Lawn Senior Center
August 8	OPEN
August 15	OPEN
August 22	OPEN
August 29	OPEN



Pop-Up Tuesdays are now in-person at the club.



Vast Archive of FLARC Activities and Info

Members are reminded that we have a large archive of YouTube videos of our previous many years of Kawfee Tawk™ presentations, which cover many aspects of ham radio. Our mostly unsung hero club videographer, Thom W2NZ, has spent thousands of hours of his own time creating really professional quality videos of these 167 presentations. Visit our club YouTube page and you will see all of them listed on the main page, at <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

Another large and rather unused archive is that of our seven years of the club newsletter, The Resonator. They provide a nice historical record of the many activities of FLARC over the years, as well as lots of useful info about ham radio and electronics. The entire archive is at <http://newsletters.FairLawnARC.org>

And don't forget the FILES area of our groups.io website, where useful and important info is saved: <https://fairlawnarc.groups.io/g/main/files>

Renew Your ARRL Dues... Send Free Money to FLARC!

The ARRL has a great program to support affiliated clubs in that it sends part of your dues back to the club if you renew through the club.

So... when you get your ARRL renewal, send both your check and your renewal application to our trusty Treasurer, who will take care of getting your renewal to Newington and a fat check for \$5.00 back to FLARC.

Nothing can be simpler...
you just have to remember!!

Print and use the
form on page 21
of this issue of
The Resonator



Club Apparel — Get Them While They're **RED**!

Club apparel is always in vogue. Red is always "in" and your club friends all have them... you *want* a shirt or jacket for the next FLARC event! Great for Field Day!

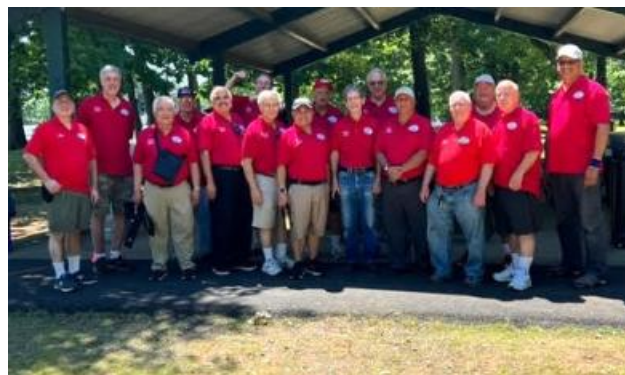
Don't forget.... they're easy to order.

Go to www.hamthreads.com

or visit <http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>

Check out the item selection that is posted on the FLARC website (with pictures and prices). Order the shirts or other items you want with either the regular FLARC logo or the still-cool 60th anniversary logo. Note: **RED** is the primary and preferred club standard shirt color.

And why not WEAR your nice red shirt when you come to the club, especially for meetings and events.



It's easy to spot FLARC members
wearing their red club shirts !

Ham Radio Is Contagious And It Won't Make You Sick!!

2025 FLARC Net On The W2NPT Repeater:

Near and Far Net • Mondays at 8PM

W2NPT Repeater and EchoLink

Special Note: As non-profit, the IRS now requires that we disclose annually the use of paid lobbyists to our members and indicate approximately what percentage of their dues goes toward that. 0% of your dues payment will be used by the club to directly pay a lobbyist firm to lobby on behalf of all our members regarding pending legislation that impacts our hobby.



NEWHAMS.INFO

Training, information, and encouragement for new amateur radio operators.

<https://newhams.info/>

BEQUEATHS AND DONATIONS

Planned gifts usually imply the family donation of amateur equipment to the club when someone has become a Silent Key. But it can be more. Club members might consider making a gift through a will or trust; gifts that help provide lifetime income to the club. Consult with your lawyer, estate planner or tax advisor if you feel such a gift is worthy.

About The Club

The Resonator is published monthly and is the official (and only) newsletter of The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club. FLARC was established in 1956 and has met continuously since inception. **The club is sponsored by the Borough of Fair Lawn.** The club meets every Friday, except when a Business Meeting is scheduled, at 6PM at the club station in The Fair Lawn Community Center, 10-10 20th Street, Fair Lawn, NJ. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Fair Lawn Senior Center, and on Zoom.

Visitors **ARE ALWAYS** welcome at our meetings.

FLARC operates the W2NPT repeater (145.470- PL 167.9) located high atop the Community Center. The analog repeater is open to all amateurs for use without restrictions.

The club has nearly two hundred paid members.
Dues are currently \$25 per year;
\$20 for new members.

For more information, please see our website, at
<http://membership.FairLawnARC.org>

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Thanks!
for your
Support!!

This is YOUR club.... Be a part of it !!



**FAIR LAWN'S
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER!**

With Our Antennas On The Roof!



Sussex Hamfest – July 13, 2025

By: Fred, KR2H

The Sussex Hamfest, held July 13th this year, is an annual ham radio event not to be missed. It is one of the most popular and well attended hamfests in the New Jersey-New York-Pennsylvania tri-state area. It is well known for having one of the biggest, if not THE biggest flea-market for new and used amateur radio equipment east of Dayton, Ohio.

I've been attending the Sussex Hamfest regularly since 1990, each time being part of a small group of longtime friends to buy and sell again this year.

Someone with the moniker "Hamfest PA" has documented this year's event on YouTube, in which he has archived a complete record of this popular event. There are 2 parts to his effort, and... heads up... Several FLARC members have been immortalized in the footage.

Pay particular attention to Part 2. Look for the FLARC table (indoors): Steve W12W and Ed WX2R, and probably others that I missed. Good hunting!

Sorry for the ads. I can't block them.

Without further delay, here are links to his masterpiece of videography.

Part 1:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2hz_fk3am8

Part 2:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQtD5IkFhnQ>

(In Part 2, pay close attention to the video at 1:25 and 30:00 for a few familiar faces and voices).

Enjoy your journey & 73,

Fred, KR2H



The FLARC gang at Sussex (pix by KA2YRA)

**FLARC July 19, 2025
VE Testing Results**

With VE testing back on schedule,
Gene W02W reports the following results:

Name	Call	License Earned
There were no candidates at this session.		

Testing for next month will be at the
Fair Lawn Recreation Center.

**Eleven Special Interest Groups [SIGs]
Already Formed: Any Others?**

Club interest continues to grow in the SIGs.

Another recently formed SIG is for those interested in Raspberry Pi and Arduino projects, but now includes DoltYourself (DIY)/Makers kit building, 3D printing and similar topics.

A list of all of the current SIGs is shown on page 9.

Other possible groups, from the member survey, include:

- *Radio Propagation*
- *Antennas and how they work*
- *Ham radio software*
- *Technical assistance to club members*

Anyone interested in leading any of these groups...?

Please contact webmaster@FairLawnARC.org

Continued on next page.

Theoretics Demystified

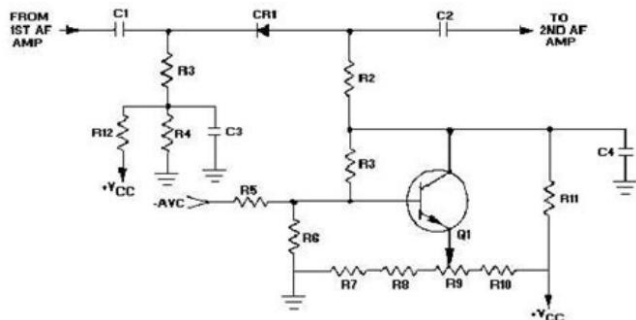
SQUELCH, what it is and how it works.

Squelch is a function that uses a circuit that cuts out noise when there is no strong signal present. This lets the listener zero in on the actual signal desired instead of being distracted by undesired noise. It is present in most communication radios to help with receiving the desired signal.

Squelch is a specially designed noise gate that is made to suppress weak signals. There is almost always a control that lets the listener adjust the amount of noise that the circuit will cut out of the received signal.

How it works is that there is an amplifying section that uses the automatic volume control circuit voltage as a reference for the control transistor, in the squelch amplifying section. There is usually a control knob that gives the operator of the radio the ability to silence the audio output from the squelch circuit at selected/desired level by adjusting the knob, similar to a volume control, to silence incoming audio noise at the selected level.

Below is a squelch circuit that shows how the squelch transistor can provide an audio cut off at the selected level as determined by R9 on the schematic. The Automatic Volume Control circuitry derives a DC voltage which biases the transistor to set where the R9 control cuts off, or squelches the audio output to the next audio stage in the receiver.



In most VHF/UHF handheld radios the squelch is open [audio on] or closed [audio off] but in larger communication base rigs the squelch may just reduce the audio output but letting the more powerful received signal pass through unimpeded, like my rig at home.

Fred Wawra, W2ABE, 73.

Hamspeak

This time HF mostly, connectors.



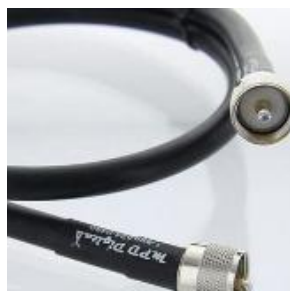
PL259 connector used to connect most HF radios to their antennas; there are solder and crimp types.



A quick connect type of PL259 connector that enables easy connection and disconnection - which avoids having to screw and unscrew the PL259 connector repeatedly to the same threads, possibly damaging them.



PL259 bulkhead connector for passing antenna connections through walls or window sash adaptors [smaller lengths are available].



A PL259 jumper cable that is used to connect the radio to the antenna bulkhead connector or radio to the tuner or tuner to amp or even to a dummy load.



An SO239 jack, which is used on the radio chassis for antenna connections.

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Contest Corner



By: Fred, KR2H
(Pinch-hitting for Van W2DLT this month)

Here's a list of upcoming contests that the whole club can operate. If you don't have a home station, or a very modest one, why not take advantage of FLARC's well-equipped station, W2NPT, at FLARC Headquarters in the Fair Lawn Community Center? All are welcome, and your participation is encouraged.

August

Aug 16-17: North American QSO Party, SSB

The "exchange" is very simple: Name + State. If operating at the FLARC station, W2NPT, use the name FRANK, a tribute to Frank Leonard, whose call we have obtained in his honor. Full details and Rules can be found here:

<https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

Logging for this contest will be electronic (no paper logs), provided by using the N1MM Logging Software. You'll learn how to use this excellent and powerful tool.

September

September 13-14: ARRL September VHF Contest

(There are 2 Classes: Analog and Digital, so you can operate SSB and CW at Station 4, or FT8 on 6 meters if someone will set-up Station 2 for 6 meters, but stations may only be contacted ONCE per band, regardless of mode).

The exchange is also very simple, just Grid Square (RST optional). The Grid identifies your location. The Grid for FLARC Headquarters is FN20. Just copy the other station's call and Grid, and that's all there is to it.

The logging software will record the date, time, and frequency or band. Simple! Multi-operator stations may not QSO multi-op station participants from their home stations (Rule 6.2)

Full details and Rules can be found here:

<http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

September (Continued)

September 20-21 –

New Jersey QSO Party (SSB, CW, and Digital).

This contest can be operated on all HF bands from 80 through 10, but FLARC is equipped to operate on 40 meters through 10.

Like Field Day, the NJQP has become somewhat of a tradition at FLARC, so why not join the fun and good fellowship at our club station? After all, the whole world will be looking for New Jersey stations, and you just might get a "pileup" when you call "CQ New Jersey QSO Party." You can see the many awards FLARC has won in this contest in past years – on the wall by Position 2.

The exchange is also quite simple: just an RS/RST + NJ County. FLARC HQ is in Bergen County, which is abbreviated as BERG. Other NJ stations will send their own county abbreviation (check the list on the NJQP website). Out-of-state stations send RS/RST + their State, and DX stations just send RS/RST + "DX."

Multipliers we can claim are NJ Counties, US States and Canadian Provinces, but "DX" counts only once as a multiplier, regardless of how many countries you work.

Logging will be by N1MM, and we'll teach you how to use it. Full details and Rules can be found here:

<http://www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp/rules.html>

IDEA: Some NJ Counties are sparsely populated and "rarer" than others. How about some of us who are not operating at FLARC Headquarters going mobile or portable in some of these "rare" counties? Which ones are "rare" in NNJ? Hudson, Warren, and Hunterdon. Check your map, fill your gas-tank, and give out a "rare" county, then be sure to aggregate your score to FLARC in your Cabrillo log!

October

October 25-26: CQ Worldwide DX Contest (SSB)

This is the "BIG ONE," the most active, most popular, and favorite DX contest of many, with scoring that allows participants to rack up fairly high scores by careful planning and by taking advantage of propagation forecasts. W2NPT is well equipped to score well in CQWW, at least on the higher bands, thanks to state-of-the-art radios, rotatable gain antennas about 70 feet high on the roof, powered by PST software that can point those antennas precisely on the DX station. Logging, as always, will be by using N1MM, the preferred contest logging software. We will teach you how to use it to full advantage.

Continued on next page.

Contest Corner, continued.

The exchange is also simple: RS (signal report, everybody sends 59) + CQ Zone. Our CQ Zone is 5. Others will send their RS report + their CQ Zone. The Zones are multipliers, and so are countries worked. Canada and U.S. count as country multipliers, too. BTW, if you need a Zone in North America, you can work VE/VO/VY stations in Zones 2, 3, and 4 (Canada), and U.S. stations in Zones 3 (W6/W7) and 4 (W5/W0). These have lower point value, but count (once) as a Zone multiplier for that band. Multipliers are important!

In the past, the town Recreation Dept. has allowed us to operate the CQWW on an extended schedule (beyond 9 PM), but permission is required first. See Gene, WO2W, about making those arrangements.

If you've ever wanted to work DX from a well-equipped station, join the operators at W2NPT for a new and exciting experience!

Full details and Rules can be found here:

<https://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

November

November 15-16: A.R.R.L. Sweepstakes SSB

Usually abbreviated "SS" the Sweepstakes is one of the oldest contests, dating back to the 1930s, and one that concentrates only on A.R.R.L./RAC Sections. (New Jersey has 2 sections, NY has 3, and there are a total of 85 sections, each one a multiplier).

The SS is a bit more challenging. The exchange consists of a sequential contact number, the power class, your call, your "check" (year first licensed) and your ARRL or RAC (Canadian) section.

It sounds complicated, but it becomes simple once you get the hang of it. The "check" for W2NPT is 41. W2NPT was originally licensed in 1941, so that's the year we give as our "check." A typical exchange from W2NPT would be: "100 A W2NPT 41 Northern New Jersey."

In plain English, this translates as: "Number 100, 100 Watts, W2NPT, first licensed 1941, section Northern New Jersey."

The exchange is roughly based on the key elements in the Preamble of an ARRL Radiogram: Message number, Precedence (Routine, Priority, or Emergency), followed by the "check," (number of words or groups in the text of the message).

Don't be intimidated by this. Club members will walk you through it, and once you pick it up, it will be easy. The SS is a great way of sharpening your operating skills. You will become more proficient after an SS, almost certainly.

I operated my first Sweepstakes (CW) as a 15 year old Novice, and I learned the exchange quickly. So can you.

Full details and Rules here:

<https://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

December

December 13-14: A.R.R.L. 10 Meter Contest

FLARC expects to have a multi-element 10 meter beam on the roof in time for the 10 meter contest. This contest can be a challenge in declining sunspot years, but 10 meters is full of surprises, year round, and at almost all hours, so even under those "challenging conditions," you can work some interesting DX or a string of U.S. stations from one area of the country. Then, the propagation will shift to another area, before "going out" for the night.

In this contest, you can operate CW only, Phone only, Digital only, or mixed modes. Like the VHF contests, though, you can only work a station ONCE per mode.

10 meters and 6 meters are very similar in terms of propagation modes, except that 10 meters can provide really long-haul DX that is difficult or impossible to work on 6 meters. Don't be surprised to find backscatter, meteor scatter, Aurora, Sporadic E, and Tropospheric propagation in this contest and also, in declining sunspot years, Trans-Equatorial DX – which is a North-South path that produces numerous contacts with South America and with booming signals. 10 meters, like 6, is another "magic" band — so give it a try.

The exchange for U.S. and Canada stations is RS/RST + State/Province. Mexican stations send RS/RST + Mexican State. Other DX stations will send RS/RST + sequential contact number, and some of those can be 1,000+ even on the first day!

Full details and Rules can be found here:

<https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/10M-Rules.pdf>

I have found contesting to be one of the most engaging and rewarding activities in amateur radio. That, especially when coupled with DXing, requires focus, concentration, and an above average level of skill. How do you attain that higher level? With practice, and that means by operating in as many contests as you can. Keep in mind that your score is a figure that will become a goal to beat next time. With practice, your honed operating skills will enable you to take on further challenges. Soon, you'll be earning awards for your performance. These will give you tangible proof of your growth, and provide further motivation towards even more achievements to come.

Contesting, like CW and learning more electronic theory and building your own equipment, is actually good for the brain. We need more brain power today, so use those little grey cells, or risk losing them.

Our chief FLARC contesting mentor is Van, W2DLT, but I can help, too. Together, we'll get you started and guide you along in your journey of improvement. We'll soon have you hooked on contesting.

73 and hope to see you at W2NPT.

— Fred, KR2H

Contest Corner, continued.

— Van W2DLT

Ham Radio Contest activity for August and September 2025

NOTE: This is NOT all the contest activity – for a complete list of all contests, see www.wa7bnm.com website.

REMEMBER: CONTESTING IS ESSENTIALLY RADIO SPORT...

- It's a good chance to improve operating skills AND to add to your DX worked list
- The club will be open for the contests listed below having ***
- REMEMBER – REGARDLESS OF YOUR LICENSE CLASS - You can use FLARC equipment on ALL BANDS, ALL MODES from the club when a control operator is present. ---Wow, that sounds a little like Field Day doesn't it?
- EVERYONE WHO SHOWS UP WILL "GET ON THE AIR" AND GET OPERATING SUGGESTIONS AND TUTORING".
- LET ME KNOW IF YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN A SPECIFIC CONTEST SO WE CAN MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE THE CLUB OPEN FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE.

NO NOTICE FROM YOU = NO INTEREST!

AUGUST 2025

- ✓ AUGUST 2 : 10-10 INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SSB CONTEST 0001Z – 2359Z AUG 3
- ✓ AUGUST 2 : NORTH AMERICAN QSO PARTY – CW 1800Z – 0600Z AUG 3
- ✓ AUGUST 9: WAE DX CONTEST – CW - 0000Z – 2359Z AUG 10
- ✓ AUGUST 9: MARYLAND QSO PARTY SSB – 1400Z- 0400Z AUG 10
- ✓ **NOTE***: ALL QSO PARTIES ARE VERY LOW KEY, SIMPLE TO OPEATE FOR BEGINNERS*
- ✓ AUGUST 16: NORTH AMERICAN QSO PARTY [NAQP] - SSB 1800Z – 0600Z AUG 17

NAQP IS AN IMPORTANT ACTIVITY – THE CLUB WILL DEFINITELY BE OPEN

- ✓ AUGUST 23: HAWAII QSO PARTY – SSB 0400Z – 0400Z AUG 25
*SEE NOTE ABOVE
- ✓ AUGUST 23: OHIO QSO PARTY – SSB 1600Z – 0400Z AUG 24
*SEE NOTE ABOVE
- ✓ AUGUST 30: US ISLANDS QSO PARTY – SSB 1200Z – 0300Z AUG 31
*SEE NOTE ABOVE
- ✓ AUGUST 30: KANSAS QSO PARTY – SSB 1400Z – 2000Z AUG 31
*SEE NOTE ABOVE

SEPTEMBER 2025

- ✓ SEPTEMBER 7: TENNESSEE QSO PARTY – SSB 1700Z – 0300Z SEP 8
*SEE NOTE ABOVE
- ✓ SEPTEMBER 13: ARRL SEPTEMBER VHF CONTEST -SSB 1800Z – 0300Z SEP 15

**TRADITIONALLY WE'RE OPEN FOR THIS ONE.
CHECK BACK WITH ME**

- ✓ SEPTEMBER 20: NJ QSO PARTY – SSB 1400Z – 0159Z SEP21 *SEE NOTE ABOVE

HEY – WE'RE NJ – WE ARE ALWAYS OPEN FOR THIS ONE – BTW: IT'S AFTER THE HAMFEST

- ✓ SEPTEMBER 20: TEXAS QSO PARTY – SSB 1400Z – 2000X SEP 21
*SEE NOTE ABOVE
- ✓ SEPTEMBER 20: NEW HAMPSHIRE QSO PARTY – SSB 1600Z – 2200Z SEP 21
- ✓ SEPTEMBER 27: MAINE QSO PARTY – SSB 1200Z – 1200Z – SEP 28
*SEE NOTE ABOVE

Respectfully submitted:

Van W2DLT Contest Chairman

EmComm SIG Updates

[Emergency Communications via Ham Radio]

Amateur radio operators use their training, skills, and equipment to provide communications during emergencies. Hams serve our communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers, and wired and wireless networks. Amateur radio can function completely independently of the internet and phone systems. An amateur radio station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes. Hams can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others.

This month, we are reprinting an EmComm editorial by Scott Royle KK4Z, of Mt. Zion, GA – which we received back on 2025 March 17. We are sharing it here because it provides some very valid and important background info.

This past weekend we had a major storm event across the southeast. There were as many as 40 deaths reported as well damage from strong winds and tornados. There were 56 tornados reported across 10 states, including 2 EF-4 and several EF-3s.

I started watching the storm system as it crossed the Mississippi/Louisiana border. I paid particular attention to the system as it approached Birmingham, AL. I live just east of the Georgia/Alabama border.

My local EmComm group started a net on the local 2 meter repeater at 2130 hrs EDT. By that time I was already within the outer fringes of the storm. Lightning was everywhere. When lightning gets within about 20 miles of my QTH, I shut down and disconnect all my radios.

In my 30 years of amateur radio, I suffered from 2 lightning strikes. Both came up through the mains (commercial) ground system. The first time, about 20 years ago, cost me about \$3,000 and the last time, in 2019, cost me about \$7,000.

I broke out my HT and tried to check into the net. I could break squelch on the repeater and that was about it. I am a good ways away from the repeater. Radio comms was out of the question, so I sent a text message to the NCS — no reply. I also sent him an email — no reply.

Because of the intensity of the lightning, I also shut down and disconnected my computers. I was on my iPhone and iPad to monitor the storms progress.

Fortunately, the storm dissipated somewhat before reaching my QTH, but there was still a lot of lightning and a lot of rain.

When considering EmComm for any event, the best methods should always be used. In my case, it was not radio, but my cell phone. It was safer. Often in amateur radio EmComm we get fixated on using the radio when other means that may be more efficient and safer are

available. In my case sending a text message and/or an email was the best bet. I remember an exercise a long time ago when I watched an operator try to send a message on his HT from inside the EMA. He had trouble hitting the repeater and the end user had trouble copying him. All the while he was sitting next to an operational FAX machine.

When we develop a communications plan, we should always consider the best means/mode available. If the cell phone works, use it, plan for it. When it stops working, then use the next best and so on and so on.

It's never a good idea to start with a 3rd tier system and work down from there. Here in the southeast, except for a major hurricane, cell service is usually working during and after a storm/disaster.

In my case, when the net started, I was surrounded by lightning and using a radio with a tower mounted antenna was not safe. While I had other means to communicate, there was nobody on the other end. It was a sobering experience.

If you don't have a plan, make one. If you have a plan, review it. Make sure you are using the best means/methods/modes available. Have a tiered approach: first A, then B, then C and so on. Relying only on one method is a recipe for failure.

Remember the 7-Ps:

Proper Planning and Preparation
Prevents Piss Poor Performance.



FLARC PortableOps SIG

PortableOps@FairLawnARC.groups.io

This is a Special Interest Group (SIG) for members interested in portable ham radio operation such as POTA, SOTA, IOTA, LOTA, etc.

The purpose of this SIG is to get outdoors and practice our operating skills from different places. We can share outing experiences, tips and work on our operating skills.

Jim W2JC says:

For new POTAppeeps, this is about the very best explanation of how to set up and use N3FJP/ACLog that I have ever run across ... (worth watching, even though ACLog now has a rather obscure POTA template already set up)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VePKcyP8ppw>



ELECTRONIC DUES PAYMENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!



**FLARC dues, new and renewal — and even donations! —
can now be made on-line ...**

Until permanent arrangements can be made, several fiduciaries of the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club have graciously agreed to forward electronic payments to the Club's bank account.

Payments can be made using Zelle account.

zelle

- Log into your Zelle account
- Use the following phone number as the recipient: 201-240-9317
- In the notes section, include your Call Sign and what year(s) the dues are for

Once complete, you may – for added assurance - send a screenshot to treasurer@FairLawnARC.org

– please be sure to redact any personal information –
(e.g. bank account number, balance, etc.)

For both new and renewal, please complete the Membership Application form at

<https://FairLawnARC.com/membership.pdf>

with your current info and either give it to a club officer
or mail it to the address on the form.

For additional information on club membership, visit

<http://membership.FairLawnARC.org>

Visit the club website at <http://FairLawnARC.org> for info about the club,
club activities, club history and our club 2-meter repeater.

For a PDF form that can be filled in on-line, then printed and mailed with check, [CLICK HERE](#)

Or you can print this page, fill it in and mail to the address shown at the bottom.



Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club

*Fair Lawn Recreation and Community Center
10-10 20th Street
Fair Lawn, N.J. 07410*

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Name _____ Call _____
Address _____ PO Box _____ Ste./Apt # _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Roster Published Phone # _____ Unpublished Phone # _____
Roster Published EMAIL _____ License class: _____

Check all that apply ARRL Member ? RACES Member ? ARES Member ? CERT ? VE ?

Additional Family Members (In same household) --

Name _____ Call _____

Name _____ Call _____

Introductory and Student Membership \$ 20 \$ _____
(Students under the age of 18 eligible for student membership)
(Introductory membership open to new members
or not a member in last 7 yrs)

Associate Membership * (No Fee)

* Open to Fair Lawn Residents Only. No voting rights or other privileges.

Renewal of Current Membership \$ 25 \$ _____

Three Year Renewal Incentive \$ 65 \$ _____

(Single memberships only, family memberships excluded)

Additional Family Members # _____ at _____ \$ 5 each \$ _____

Life Membership \$ 625 \$ _____

Senior Life Membership (65 yrs. of age or over) \$ 250 \$ _____

Equipment Fund Donation, above regular membership dues \$ _____

Total submitted \$ _____

_____ Date _____

I hereby acknowledge the By laws and rules and regulations of the club and will abide by them as amended

Please Note: Memberships are NOT Pro-Rated. Membership is from Jan 1st to Dec. 31st of any given year unless documented otherwise.

Please make your dues check payable to the "Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club" and remit to the following address:

**Fair Lawn ARC
– Attn: Treasurer
10-10 20th Street
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410**

Complete this form for NEW or RENEWAL of ARRL membership
and give to FLARC Treasurer [David Gotlib KD2MOB] with your payment check.



ARRL
The National Association for
Amateur Radio®

Membership Application

☐ New ☐ Renew ☐ Previous Member ☐ Unlicensed

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

My Family Member is Joining or Renewing: (\$12 per member)

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Name _____ Call Sign _____

☐ Please note my new address ☐ I do not want my name and address made available for non-ARRL related mailings

Your Annual Membership Dues*

Circle Your Choice (rates effective Jan. 1, 2024)

	1 Year	3 Years
Standard membership	\$59	\$174
Family (same membership exp. date and address)	\$12	\$36
Student (must be under age 26)	\$30	
Blind (requires one-time statement of legal blindness)	\$12	\$36

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...and more!

*A print subscription for *QST* and/or *On the Air* requires an ARRL membership. Dues and subscription rates are subject to change without notice and are non-refundable

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membership@arrl.org • www.arrl.org/join

CLUB
form rev 1/24

August 2025

FLARC Business Meeting

Meeting summary for FLARC Business Meeting, August 1, 2025

Quick recap

The August 2025 FLARC meeting opened with a moment of silence for deceased member Bill Leger and a brief discussion about the missing Kawfee Tawk™ presenter. The club confirmed their quorum and reviewed financial updates, including equipment sales and purchases, while also discussing upcoming contests and events through December. The meeting covered various operational matters including rotator upgrades, contest participation, and equipment safety warnings, along with updates on club activities and regular meeting schedules.

Next steps

- Nomar to bring the new rotator to the club either tomorrow or Sunday
- Dave WO2X to finalize logistics for installing 6 and 10 meter beam on Tower 2
- Dave WO2X to arrange for antenna work to be performed
- Club members to check the Resonator for full details on upcoming contests
- Club members interested in helping organize contests to contact a Board member
- Club members to check the Fair Lawn ARC Groups.io for information about the Chinese radio issue that has problems when charging the battery when still in the radio.

Summary

The August 2025 meeting of FLARC opened with a moment of silence to honor the recently deceased member Bill Leger WA2WL, who passed away at 65. FLARC President explained that Chris KE2NJ, who was supposed to lead the Kawfee Tawk, was delayed at work due to a maintenance issue at the New York and New Jersey Port Authority bridge. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a brief discussion about the upcoming Kawfee Tawk and the club's activities.

Financial Update and Ham Fest Planning

The meeting began with a confirmation of the quorum, including the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Judith KC2LTM as a trustee. The minutes from the previous month were published in the Resonator, and no corrections or changes were proposed. The Treasurer provided a financial update, noting an increase of \$530.18 in the bank account due to equipment sales. The Treasurer also mentioned having \$600 in cash set aside for the ham fest, which has been delayed.

Tower Upgrades and Revenue Update

The club treasury report revealed \$1,900 in revenue from antenna sales and equipment donations, which helped offset expenses. A new Yaesu rotator was purchased for Tower 2, replacing an older unit that would have cost \$350-400 to repair, and a computerized control box will be added for automatic rotation. The club has also upgraded several radio positions, including replacing the Icom 746 with a Yaesu FTDX 101D in position 1 and moving the Flex to position 2, while still having one Kenwood 850 for sale.

August 2025 FLARC Business Meeting, cont'd.

Club Contests and Events Update

The club discussed upcoming contests and events for August through December. President WO2W reported that Van W2DLT was unable to attend but provided a list of contests, including the North American CW and phone contests in August, the ARRL VHF contest and the NJ QSO Party in September, and the 10-meter contest in December. Judith KC2LTM announced that Portable Day will be held on August 16th at Memorial Park, featuring a fox hunt (organized by Brian KD2KLN and Karl W2KBF) and Portable Day, along with grilled hot dogs and refreshments. The club also noted their regular meeting times: Monday night 2-meter net at 8 PM, club open Tuesday and Friday 6:30-9 PM, and Sunday BYOBagel 9 AM-noon.

The club discussed several topics, including a new rotator that will be picked up and brought to the club, and the availability of power poles for wiring. They also received confirmation of a new country contact, 4L4DX, through a QSL card. Karl W2KBF warned the group about a problematic Chinese radio being sold on Amazon, explaining that charging it with the wall charger can damage the radio, while charging with a USB charger is safe. If the battery is charged in the charger without the radio, the radio will not be damaged. The hazards of that type of battery were mentioned, with the caution to not do the charging “unsupervised.”

Steve WA2BYX also briefly mentioned that some inexpensive coax cable from China has been found to have an aluminum center conductor that is copper coated, rather than a solid copper center conductor. (You get what you pay for!)

Meeting was adjourned at 20:00 EDT.

[Summary created by Zoom AI, edited by Club Secretary W2JC.]

